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BOOK REVIEWS

The Federal Penal Code of 1910, together with other Statutes having Penal Provisions in Force Dec. 1, 1908, annotated by George F. Tucker and Charles W. Blood, of the Boston Bar. Boston. Little, Brown & Co., 1910. pp. lii, 507.

A logical result of the 1910 Revision of the Federal Penal Code was an annotated edition of the Code, which would furnish to the busy lawyer the principal decisions upon each mooted point, and the latest judicial authority upon the subject of crimes against the United States. Such a book we have in the present volume, which makes no pretension to profundity of reasoning or theoretical discussion, but confines itself to the latest Federal Penal Code, and the other Statutes in force Dec. 1, 1908, having Penal Provisions.

The arrangement of the book follows the classification set forth in the Penal Code, and at the conclusion of this, the different statutes with penal provisions are given, with annotations. The usefulness of such a book depends upon the thoroughness with which the annotators have gone over the ground, and the skill with which they have cited every decision in its place; and the volume undoubtedly is a complete, comprehensive digest of the penal decisions of the Federal Courts. As such, it will be of assistance to active members of the bar wherever the statutes are in force.

The book contains a table of cases cited, and a serviceable index of the field covered. The volume is another step towards making the lawyer's task of following up the authorities upon the various subjects of the law an easy one.

C. R. W.

The Law and Practice in Bankruptcy. By Wm. Miller Collier. Eighth Edition, by Frank B. Gilbert, of the Albany Bar. Matthew Bender & Co., Albany, 1910. pp. lxxxii, 1309.

If it be true that the Bankrupt Act was a measure designed to be temporary in duration, and to be repealed as soon as the financial conditions of 1898 should be ended, nevertheless the subject has become such a large part of our commercial law, the decisions

upon the subject have taken such a wide range, and the 1910 amendments to the Act were so important, that a new edition of this standard authority was a necessity.

The book is one which needs no introduction to the practitioner. It follows the outline of the Bankruptcy Act, and is a treatise upon the whole field of bankrupt law. The body of the book is annotated to date, and contains about two hundred pages of Forms in Bankruptcy, which are for the most part official or have been passed upon by the courts. The plan of the work is comprehensive, the execution masterly, and the careful work and digesting of the present editor has made the volume an up-to-date authority upon every phase of the subject.

The volume is tastefully bound in law buckram, and is not too large to be serviceable. If any fault can be found with it, the casual observer notes a number of typographical errors which argue for a more careful proofreading. But these are in the main unimportant.

In keeping this authority upon bankrupt law up to date, the publishers and editor are doing a great work of much value to the profession generally, and of absolute necessity to the commercial and bankruptcy attorney.

Questioned Documents. By Albert S. Osborn. Lawyers' Co-Operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y., 1910. pp. xxiv, 501.

The way of the forger is hard. At least, so says Mr. Osborn in his present volume. "To forge a writing with entire success," he says, "one must first be able to see, and then must have the muscular skill necessary to reproduce the significant characteristic of the writing of another and, at the same time, eliminate the characteristics of his own writing." That this is indeed fully true is very apparent from the five hundred pages filled full of devices for detecting forgeries.

The work treats, in the first few chapters, of the methods of preserving questioned documents and of the mechanical appliances useful in their examination, laying particular stress on the advantages of photography. With this preliminary matter completed, the author is ready to describe the tests to be applied to documents